

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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OF THE
INDEPENDENT
THEATRES
ASSOCIATION

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EDIT VIEWS

GAG RULE

Paramount is said to be filing suit against the National Broadcasting Company and Alistair Cook, the network's radio critic because of a broadcast made by Cook on January 5, in which he criticized "Wells Fargo" in an allegedly derogatory manner, calling it "an elaborate trailer."

This move is going even Fascistic Italy one better, as a recent attempt to gag film critics in Italy resulted in a verdict restating the inalienable right of the critic to express his opinion, hot, cold or lukewarm.

Surely Paramount must know, in spite of its selling zeal, that critics have done more to publicize the value of good pictures than all of the press agents rolled together in their 24 sheets could do. The dear public, (and it is not as dumb as the million-dollar campaign boys assume it is) will swallow without straining, a few adequate adjectives dished up by an unbiased critic, but strangle on the whipped-up concoction of superlative superfluities spread out on the lurid banquet cloth of publicity.

Editors and columnists shape public opinion, critics shape public taste, and what is anybody going to do about it, short of trying to gag the press?

Reactionary tendencies are rampant in the world today. In certain spots in Europe the press has become the

(Continued on Page 2)

Held Over In Toronto

Boy of the Streets,
Monogram.

Sound Patent War Far-Reaching

British Acoustics, a subsidiary of Gaumont British has brought an infringement suit against R C A and Erpi, two American manufacturers of sound equipment. The action asks for an injunction and accounting of profits and will be answered jointly by the two defendants. Engineers and Attorneys are making a careful study of the patents involved.

The plaintiff charges that two patents for improved mechanism to feed film through the sound head of

(Continued on Page 2)

Allied Confers On Radio Menace And Legislative Relief

The meeting of the Allied States Exhibitors Association held at Washington, January 18, resulted in the adoption of a lone-hand policy for the organization in working out trade problems. This was interpreted as a pointed snub to Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president and other groups seeking concerted action on the part of all exhibitor organizations for a joint legislative policy. Representative Sam Hobbs, sponsor of a pending bill to investigate the motion picture industry was present at the meeting, it was revealed. A special committee is working on the framing of a measure for legislative relief as no present pending bill is wholly satisfactory to Allied.

Radio competition was one of the subjects under

(Continued on Page 2)

New Associated British Picture Stock Issue launched by John Maxwell seen as end of Ostrer Court Prosecution.

Ontario Censor Post Combines Duties of Chief Inspector

The separate post of Chief Inspector of Theatres, formerly held by R. C. Buckley, who was also director of the Amusement Tax Branch of the Provincial Treasury, has now been combined with the censorship department.

Mr. O. J. Silverthorne, Chairman of the Ontario Board of Motion Picture Censors will combine his duties with that of the duties of the vacated post.

M G M Studio employees have been officially notified that Loew's Inc. has taken over all production activities.

A notice of the change of legal status was circulated throughout the organization and became effective as of January 1, 1938.

Canadians Poor Theatre Goers

From information published in the U.S., the weekly attendance at motion picture theatres in that country is placed at eighty-five millions per week. This is slightly higher than the estimate for 1936.

The estimate for England, as made by the Daily Film Renter, is twenty millions per week for Great Britain as against a population of fifty millions.

Based on the American attendance, Canadian at-

(Continued on Page 2)

The floating of a five and a half million dollar stock issue by John Maxwell on behalf of Associated British has been interpreted by the trade as indicating a cessation of the court action brought against the Ostrer brothers by shareholders of Gaumont British for alleged discrepancies in accounts. The shareholders' committee was headed by John Maxwell.

A second bomb was hurled by Maxwell on December 22, 1937, when he charged that Union Cinema had fraudulently increased its assets by \$11,000.00 prior to its merger with Associated British. This charge resulted in a demand on the part of shareholders that the books of the company be re-audited and that the 43 subsidiary companies be dissolved and placed under single executive management.

The end of the year saw Maxwell at the head of a group of shareholders demanding a Board of Trade investigation into the alleged discrepancies which had been uncovered by the audit of the British Gaumont books.

The Ostrers sought to counteract the move for an

(Continued on Page 2)

Current Hits

The Hurricane.
Wells Fargo.
Love and Hisses.
Submarine D-1.
Rosalie.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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EDIT VIEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

mistress of a handful of dictators. Tricked out in the bought-and-paid-for propaganda garments of her respective keepers, she walks the highroads a marked woman.

In this country and in the U.S. she has been co-erced, but not altogether successfully. It behooves every lover of freedom therefore to guard the chastity of this symbol of our liberty, the press.

In another part of this paper, we have reprinted the protest of one American Editor against the dangerous foothold that Fascist practices are securing in two spots in Canada. We share his alarm, and wish, in turn, to protest against the attempt to curtail by legal, or any other means, the rights of critics to honestly express their opinions in the matter of film appraisals or any other matter touching public taste.

Surely we, in democratic countries, can grant our critics as much liberty of expression as Fascist Italy grants to hers. And surely private capital in the U.S. can ask no greater protection against the menace of honest criticism than the government-subsidized industry of Italy expects for itself.

And may the producers, in spite of their colossal investments continue to take the occasional blast together with the more general cheering of their product with the continued grace dictated by good sportsmanship.

Ass. British Stock
Issue

(Continued from Page 1)

investigation by informing shareholders that they would be subject to libel suits by affixing their signatures to the petition asking for a probe.

Court adjournments of the trial suit charging the Ostrers with fraud were blocked by John Maxwell in an attempt to bring on both actions simultaneously. The Ostrers' attempt at delaying the court action was for the purpose of first defeating the probe.

The present calling on the public for fresh investment capital appears to be a turning over of a new leaf and a cancelling of old scores.

It is expected that the court action will not be pursued, and that the investigation will be dropped.

Sound Patents

(Continued from Page 1)

projectors were granted in 1926 and 1935 to Arnold Poulson and Axel Peterson who later sold these patent rights to British Accoustics, Limited. It is these patents that are allegedly being infringed by the defendants in new equipment.

If the U.S. District Court of Delaware, before which this action is pending, holds these patents valid, British Accoustics, it is said, will sue all theatres using equipment employing these devices.

Canadian Attendance

(Continued from Page 1)

tendance should be about four millions per week.

The best estimate we can obtain for the actual attendance in Canada is two millions per week.

This bears out an argument that has been made many times recently, namely, that the average Canadian citizen attends motion picture theatres only one third as many times as the average American citizen, and only one half as many times as the average British citizen.

Allied States Meets

(Continued from Page 1)

discussion, but so far no official stand has been taken by the Association. It was stated as the personal opinion of an Ohio member that the producer-owned theatres are being hurt more than the independent theatres, and that Hollywood producers will soon realize that presenting their stars on the air is cutting into their theatre receipts.

Nathan Yamins was re-elected to the presidency and Abram F. Meyers is again Chairman of the board.

Hays Awarded
Medal Of Achievement

At a meeting of the Poor Richard Club in Philadelphia held January 17, Will. H. Hays, MPPDA president, was presented with the Club's Gold Medal for achievement awarded by proxy to the Motion Picture Industry of America.

Mr. Hays, in making his acceptance speech, enlarged on the spirit of public responsibility that prompted the industry to embark on its self-regulation plan embodied in the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Association. "Self-regulation," said Mr. Hays, "means an industry built upon a wider basis of public service and an art that can rise to the highest social ends.

"In a single decade this business waif from the side streets has purchased a billion dollars worth of steel, stone, cement and lumber. It has become the biggest single customer of the furniture, printing and lithographing trades, and one of the heaviest tax-payers of the nation.

"It provides steady employment to a population greater than the number of inhabitants of some of our states. Its payroll is one of the backlogs of prosperity, and it buys nearly \$100,000,000 worth of newspaper, magazine and billboard

Para. Eliminates Arbitration Clause From
1937-8 Contracts

The new Paramount contracts for 1937-8 do not contain the usual arbitration clause, but, it is said, one can be written in on request of the exhibitor.

Recently the Newark Amusement Company brought an action against Paramount to compel the distributor to arbitrate a question of product. The court upheld Paramount's refusal to arbitrate because the arbitration clause had been left out of the standard contract.

Trade Pact Hearings
Set For March 14

The U.S. State Department has set March 14, as the date for public hearings before the Reciprocity Committee relative to the working out of a reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Imports of Motion Picture film negatives and positives from the United Kingdom to the U.S. are among the long list of product awaiting duty-rate adjustments.

It is expected that a downward revision of rates will be agreed on.

Fire Destroys
Theatre and Prints

The Family Theatre, Dawson City, was destroyed by fire last week together with a large supply of film stored in the property to service a considerable section of the Yukon territory.

advertising annually."

Mr. Hays then pointed out the contribution that the motion picture has made in portraying great works of literature, drama and history. This, he considered no small part of the achievement of the industry, and a complete justification of the self-regulation under which the industry has been able to exercise its creative spirit.

CANADIAN LICENSE AGREEMENT REVIEWED

By Harold Kay and Ben Ulster (Press Com. ITA)

CANCELLATION

When an exhibitor buys a contract, he buys a pig in a poke. He doesn't know how big the pig is going to be, whether he'll be black or white, fat or lean. In fact he knows nothing about the animal. He has to buy him blind, undertake to pay a definite price for him, and leave the outcome in the lap of the Gods or to the tender mercies of an arbitration board.

Now the fellow selling the pig, the distributor, he is not quite so soft-headed. Faith, he knows, has no place in business. And good business practice dictates that he get the ultimate protection for himself in all transactions. He reminds us of the big meat packer who boasted that his plant was so efficient that everything but the squeal of the pig is made use of. The film distributor goes him one better in efficiency. His pig doesn't even waste the squeal, it is the exhibitor generally who does the squealing, and it does him as much good as the last shrill protest does the animal lead to the slaughter.

The Crack in the Slaughter-house Door

In a previous article on the Canadian License Agreement we treated the "if available" clause, the clause that lets the distributor out of delivering what he sells if he so chooses. Now we are concerned with the slight crack in the door left open for the exhibitor. This crack is called "cancellation."

Not all exhibitors get the cancellation privilege. ALL EXHIBITORS BUYING ON CONTRACT SHOULD DEMAND A REASONABLE CANCELLATION PRIVILEGE AND TAKE MEANS TO PROTECT THAT PRIVILEGE.

We will try to point out some of the pitfalls along the road of securing an effective cancellation clause, and make a few suggestions as to how you may put your

foot in the crack left open to hold that slim advantage. Often the door is slammed shut in the exhibitor's face at the first step he makes to use the cancellation privilege.

Cancellation Pro Rata

In the first place, where cancellation of a definite number of pictures is agreed on at the time of the sale, let us say six pictures are allowed out of forty, the exhibitor should make certain that the cancellation privilege is operative throughout the contract. Often the wording of the clause is such that the exhibitor can begin to use the privilege only after he has accepted a certain number of pictures. This often results in defeating the purpose of the clause entirely, thus: If the buyer cannot cancel a picture until he has used thirty of the forty pictures bought, and only thirty pictures are released by that exchange, he has had no opportunity to use his power of cancellation and never will have. This, by the way, is a device frequently used by exchanges to nullify the privilege of exhibitors to cancel pictures.

Drained Product Value

The privilege to cancel a portion of a contract is very essential to the successful management of a motion picture theatre. If an exhibitor must buy blind, with the product designated only by means of a series of numbers, he may be fairly certain that a portion of that product may not be suitable as to subject matter or price for his particular needs. If he is bound by his contract to play all of the product of that exchange, he finds himself at times, trying to sell goods not wanted by his particular customers, at a price that means a loss to his business.

This is particularly true of neighborhood theatres where the district is serviced also by first and second-run theatres playing the same pictures. If a successful

feature or special picture is given extended running time in a previous house, the value of that product is almost completely drained. If the exhibitor of a subsequent house is forced by his contract to buy this picture at a high price, despite his own judgment, he is in a position that no other retail merchant finds himself in. No other wholesale merchant has the right to force the purchase of high-priced goods on a small merchant who cannot gainfully market that class of product.

Most MGM contracts are bought without the cancellation privilege, (except by circuits that can demand advantageous terms.) Now, M G M product is the lifeblood of any theatre, and it must be had if the exhibitor is to give his patrons a well-rounded program of entertainment. But even M G M occasionally shoots a blank and exhibitors who have a no-cancellation contract are forced to pay for producers' mistakes. Nobody should have had to play "General Spanky" contract or no contract.

Cancellation of Lower Categories

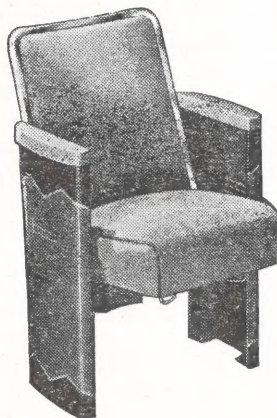
When cancellation is being granted, the privilege is

confined to product in the lower categories of price only. Generally a number of the pictures designated to the lowest category are not delivered, and of those delivered in the next-lowest category, a number may be cancelled, therefore an exhibitor finds himself paying, on the average more for his product than he figures when averaging the entire schedule of prices. It is well for him to take this into consideration so that he will know in advance that his average picture cost will be higher than appears at the time of purchase.

Term of Contract

There is one right with respect to cancellation that the exhibitor has, that few exhibitors are aware of. **And it may mean money in your pockets to digest this.** Picture contracts are bought and sold for one year in spite of the fact that some contracts provide an 18-month period in which delivery may be made. Now, delays in releasing often force the exhibitor to go into the open market for product to fill in gaps in his program. Frequently, after such purchases are made, exchanges will make avail-

(Continued on Page 4)



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Al Jolson Re-elected

Al Jolson was elected mayor of Encino, Calif. for the third term.

Mae West Case Officially Closed

The Federal Communications Commission at Washington officially closed the Mae West National Broadcasting case relative to her "Adam and Eve" Coffee broadcast.

NBC was officially reprimanded and F.C.C. officially accepted the network's apology.

The stations received warning that they must not permit their contracts to interfere with their responsibility "to serve the public interest" under their licenses.

Chairman of the Commission, Mr. McNish, stated that the standards of the motion picture industry were not sufficient for the radio.

Open criticism of the FCC on the part of several congressmen resulted from what was considered the trivial nature of the reprimand and warning, and demands for an investigation were renewed.

License Agreement

(Continued from Page 3)

able this delayed product, SOMETIME AFTER THE 12-MONTH PERIOD OF THE CONTRACT HAS EXPIRED. The exhibitor finds himself with more pictures bought than he can play, yet obliged to pay for them. HE DOES NOT HAVE TO TAKE DELIVERY OF ANY PICTURE ON HIS SCHEDULE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER 12 MONTHS FROM HIS FIRST PLAYING DATE ON THAT CONTRACT. This is a virtual cancellation privilege of delayed product that most exhibitors are not aware of, but that arbitration boards have upheld.

Another article in this series on the Canadian License Agreement will appear in an early issue of this paper.

DON QUIXOTE RIDES AGAIN**LADY EDITOR TILTS AT WINDMILLS**

By Cervantes II.

The romantic era is not yet over. Don Quixote has come back in petticoats to fence with windmills once more.

Something has shocked a lady publisher into a state and she is seeing things. Everything on the horizon has become a threat. So, she has mounted the old hobby horse, taken her good sword in hand and has ridden off to do battle, and to rescue the honor of the motion picture industry. This is the first intimation we have had, by the way, that there is anything feminine about the film business. But since the knight is a lady, and things are a little mixed up anyway, maybe it's all right, for the sake of the plot, to call motion pictures feminine, and to presume that its honor is threatened.

So our resurrected Don Quixote rides forth on her bony nag, and, just as Cervantes recounts, she meets a windmill. Now, this windmill has several arms and looks to our lady-knight like a monstrous octopus whose arms all emanate from one focal point and are all reaching out after the same thing, possession of the damsel's virtue.

One arm is Dominion Sound, one Boxoffice, one "the nigger in the woodpile," another a somnolent man-eating lion, and still another Mr. Nat Taylor. The arms keep whirling around by virtue of "the windy suspirations of her forced breath" until the whole scene is in a whirlwind of confusion. Ghosts appear from out of Shakespeare, from out of the grave, she becomes a ghost, everything becomes eerie and we are lead to the inevitable conclusion that the whole business is a sort of nightmare brought on by a spell of in-DIGEST-ion.

Now what, I wonder, sits so heavily on the

stomach of the lady-knight? Of course the coming of Boxoffice into the Canadian territory is a big dose to down; then again, the feeding of news to it by the Famous Players organization is enough to invoke a spell in one who has until now enjoyed the favor of that same outfit. This much is understandable, and invokes our deepest sympathy, but why one, who had long since lain down the cudgels she once wielded for the independents, should suddenly choose to dust them off, and heat them in the fires of her wrath to forge a new weapon for the defence of the damsel long abandoned, that remains something of a mystery, but not an altogether impenetrable one.

In this nightmare the ghostly knight then turns into a bloodhound. On the scent she finds Dominion Sound hiding in the Boxoffice, she sniffs out "the nigger in the woodpile," spies a sleeping lion, but she cannot ferret out what the "insurmountable difficulties" were that killed a merger. She goes to great lengths to cover the entire field of conjecture without ever coming near the facts.

Defunct Amusement**Tax Savings To Ontario Substantial**

The abolition of the amusement tax in the province of Ontario has saved the public and exhibitors no less than \$2,000,000. This saving is computed on the basis of the amount paid out the last year the tax was in force.

Ontario is the only province in Canada relieved of this tax. Every state in the U.S. is paying some form of amusement tax to the government.

Australian Theatre-Holding War Continues

Hoyt's Theatres is advancing its position in the war on Greater Union Theatres to acquire a major portion of the Australian exhibition field.

At a recent shareholders' meeting figures showing a profit of \$405,000 for 1937 were read. A major portion of this capital will be used to acquire new theatre property after a dividend on stock holdings of \$405,000 is paid.

The battle for dominance in the Australian exhibition field has been raging since last October, following a previous decision to terminate a five year merger between Hoyt Theatres and Greater Union Theatres.

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THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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TWICE TOLD TALES

One of the better Hollywood stories is Jules Levines, relayed by Mark Hellinger. It deals with the friend of a movie producer who sat in the latter's office. Noticing a new office boy, the friend asked the producer what had become of the old one — "Oh, him," muttered the producer. "I fired him for dishonesty."

"You did?" cried the friend. "What did he do?" The producer scowled. — "He said," was the explanation, "that I made punk pictures!"

Here's a Wall Street version of the difference between an optimist and a pessimist. "The optimist is the fellow who says, 'By Christmas we will all be begging in the streets,' — to which the pessimist replies, 'From whom?'"

The night that Lillian Emerson's play opened, she sent invitations to a few friends to attend a soiree she was giving after the show. One of the boys replied: "Soiree I Can't Be There."

A new picture was so bad, they say, that the studio shelved it and released the star instead.

"Hollywood Hotel." — Lola Lane, a movie queen, meets her double, portrayed by sister Rosemary Lane, in the Orchid room of Hollywood hotel. "How dare you go around with a face like mine?" she says. Interrupts Ted Healy: "Why don't you take your face to Washington and have it copyrighted?"

"A Damsel in Distress" — Fred Astaire, George Burns and Gracie Allen are sitting in an apartment when the telephone rings. Gracie picks up the phone, says 'hello' and then informs George: "It's an Hawaiian." "An Hawaiian?" says George. "It must be," replies Gracie. "He says he's Brown from the Morning Sun."

Max Gendel writes in to inquire whether we've heard about the Jewish actor who only got paid enough for room and borscht!

Sam Goldwyn, so they tell us, was chiding a writer for having signed with another producer. "But, Sam," argued the author, "my option was up and you didn't renew it." — "Yeah," rejoined Goldwyn, "but I gave you my word that it would be picked up—and you should know that my word is almost as good as some of the pictures I make!"

DIGEST of REVIEWS

EMPIRE FILMS

DR. SYN—

This Gaumont is a good average George Arliss vehicle with a clever plot about an ex-pirate who carries on a lucrative smuggling business while covered with the smock of a clergyman.

CARNIVAL QUEEN—

We can find no excuse for it.

20TH CENTURY-FOX

SECOND HONEYMOON—

Despite a grand array of star names headed by Tyrone Power and Loretta Young, and despite the lighthearted wisecracking dialogue, the picture emerges on the draggy side and can only be classed as "B" fare.

DINNER AT THE RITZ—

This new Annabella vehicle has plenty of what it takes for good business. Not quite up to the standard of "Wings of the Morning."

CITY GIRL—

This picture starring Phyllis Brookes and Ricardo Cortez is first rate hokum that goes down smoothly. Story of a working girl who, seeking advancement, gets mixed up with a gang and dies stopping a bullet meant for her former sweetheart. We compliment Fox on a program picture of merit.

CHANGE OF HEART—

This one is very well done and will strengthen any program where comedy relief is required. Stars Gloria Stuart, Michael Whalen and Lyle Talbot.

RKO RADIO

SHE'S GOT EVERYTHING—

Despite a great comedy cast headed by Gene Raymond, Ann Sothorn, Victor Moore and Helen Broderick, the picture emerges on the weak side.

SMART GIRL—

Another laughable yarn with Miriam Hopkins and Ray Milland. This one should do well at the boxoffice especially in neighborhood houses that will benefit by a word-of-mouth build up.

GRAND NATIONAL

MR. BOGGS STEPS OUT —

This is a slow-moving comedy by the author of "Mr. Deeds" starring Stuart Erwin. Satisfactory as a second feature with ample support. Fault largely in slow tempo.

PARAMOUNT

BLOSSOMS ON BROADWAY—

If this picture grosses it will be because of the song bearing the same name. Good cast wasted on mediocre entertainment material.

THE BUCCANEER—

Cecil B. DeMille can well be proud of this achievement. Here is entertainment on a grand plan together with a great cast headed by Frederick March. Should pack the lobbies as well as the auditorium.

WARNER BROS.

SUBMARINE D1—

Another "Devil Dogs of the Air" or "Here Comes the Navy." It is every bit as good as its forerunners and has a thrilling climax in an escape from a sunken submarine. Picture stars Geo. Brent, Pat O'Brien and Wayne Morris. It should hold its own in any company.

New Low Prices

Owing to a reduction in United States costs, all repair parts will now be billed at American List prices.

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Mae West Sued for Plagiarism

The much-mooted "Adam and Eve" coffee broadcast that stirred the Legion of Decency, the Federal Communications Commission, and the public generally, has now boomeranged back and struck Mae West with a plagiarism suit.

Joan Storm has started a Federal Court action against Mae West and others for plagiarizing the radio skit from her play "Love and Applesauce." She asks \$10,000 damages and all profits of the broadcast.

Mr. N. L. Nathanson, head of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has gone to Miami for a two-weeks' holiday.

Mr. H. Freedman, president of The Independent Theatres Association, has left with his wife for his usual winter holiday to the Southland.

Mr. Sam Ulster, treasurer and member of the Board of the I.T.A. together with his wife have entrained for a prolonged Florida vacation.

Letters To The Editor

Jan. 17, 1938.

Editor—
Dear Sir;

I am pleased to enclose \$5.00 to help your good work along. I read with great interest your item — "If Available."

I am one of the ones who apparently over-bought and could not run the amount from the different exchanges in the time apparently contracted for. In order to get a few good features you have to buy a lot of junk that is not fit or safe to put through the machines, or fit to look at.

Then there is this Arbitration Board, mostly made up of their own men. I have paid for programs I did not run, then I get notice to spend at least \$35.00 of my own money to attend a meeting in Toronto.

These exchanges can live without my business, but not without all of us. I think the sooner the independent owners get together and have some of the onesided **Cast Iron** knocked off the back of those contracts the better it will be for all concerned. The present government can do it.

I also notice some of the exchanges are still tacking on the score charge, a pure steal in my mind.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

D. J. Sandie,

Empire Theatre,

Thessalon, Ont.

Ed. Note: We would like other letters expressing exhibitors' opinions, with or without subscriptions.

Warner's Consider Roadshow Plans

Conferences are being held between Grad Sears, Warner's distribution chief, Harry M. Warner, Jack L. Warner and Hal Wallis to set plans for road-showing "Jezebel," "Adventures of Robinhood" and "Gold Is Where You Find It."

The last two are Technicolor pictures and each cost over \$1,000,000. Opening spots for these features have not been chosen as yet.

All We Can Do— Is Apologize!

We admit we could not handle all the orders offered us for "DANCING LADY" . . . AND WE'RE SORRY . . . we've worked day and night — and now we're caught up . . . So step up Exhibitors and put on this great 32 week Deal . . . instead of being "down at the mouth" — you'll be "down at the Bank" — with bigger and better deposits!

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Freedom Of The Press In Danger

(Reprinted from N.Y. Post)

Some time ago the American Newspaper Publishers Association was exercised over freedom of the press. Some doubt was thrown on its sincerity in raising the issue in connection with legislation for collective bargaining and minimum-wage regulation.

We think the association has an opportunity to prove its sincerity and to safeguard the interests of the newspaper business by extending aid to the battles now being waged in two Provinces of Canada against interference with freedom of the press.

The first is in Alberta, where the Social - Credit movement has confirmed the suspicion that it has a repressive, Fascist streak by introducing a bill which would prevent newspapers from publishing news unfriendly to the Social-Credit Government of the Province.

The second is in Quebec, where the Provincial Government, under Duplessis, following a pattern made familiar by European events, is out to crush "Communism." In the process it is crushing freedom of press as well as freedom of speech and assembly.

We think these two battles merit the attention and aid of the A.N.P.A. Hitherto freedom of the press has been endangered in the Western Hemisphere by those who do not share our Anglo-Saxon traditions of free government.

Now in Canada repression rises, bringing danger to our very doors. If such things can happen in Canada, will they happen here? Isn't it well to act before the threat is serious? Protests from the United States would help save freedom of the press in Canada.

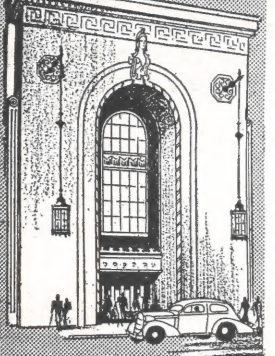
What does the A.N.P.A. propose to do about it?

Theatre Construction Gains In Canada

Figures for First 10 Months of 1937,
Cost of New Construction \$1,943,000,
Percentage of Gain and Cost by Province.

Maritime Provinces	53%	\$56,000
Quebec	116%	410,000
Ontario	176%	929,000
Manitoba	195%	182,000
Saskatchewan	520%	31,000
Alberta	33%	8,000
British Columbia	407%	327,000

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Personalities



We all know that a prophet is without honor in his own country, now Walt Disney tells us that being a celebrity doesn't help him to impress the wife. It must be that when the great take off their shoes at the fireside their clay feet leave tracks on the carpet.

o o o

As a result of the much-protested and discussed Mae West-coffee broadcast, all of Mae's jokes have been ruled off NBC programs in spite of the fact that MANNER not MATTER seems to have caused the tempest in the coffee cauldron. Mae should have her nasal innuendoes clipped out with her adenoids as her air-ad-annoyed many listeners.

o o o

Dolly Tree, MGM designer, predicts that the day of the exotic in feminine fashions is giving way to the "Dairy Maid" type of freshness, but we lay a bet that the old tune remains the same, "Oh may I go with you my pretty maiden fair."

o o o

Warren William used his day off recently to play dentist to a fine old oak tree on his Encino estate. Together with a tree surgeon, he filled cavities in the tree, using six tons of Portland cement. I must hand it to the sturdy oak when I think of the fuss I make in the dentist's chair. No doubt that's how great reputations are made, —six tons of filling!

o o o

During rehearsals of "The Girl of the Golden West" a gag was pulled on Jeanette MacDonald. A carriage arrives for the lady, and instead of a stately white prancer, a crude imitation of Spark Plug is discovered between the shafts. Jeanette pulled off the blanket covering the animal to discover Nelson Eddy playing the head part and Leo Carrillo the rear end of the horse. The lady said the casting was O.K. by her.

o o o

Dorothy Lewis, fan mail secretary to Carole Lombard, has received a letter from a Pennsylvania fan who proposed first to Carole and enclosed a note to the secretary saying, "If Carole won't marry me, will you?" Well, even playing second fiddle to Carole is still some fiddling, but, I wonder what kind of a bow the gink would make.

o o o

Percy Westmore gave Bette Davis a genuine Whistler etching as an "award" for the person easiest to make up ... most etchings go to the girls easiest to make up to.

o o o

Priscilla Lane got herself a lavish bouquet of orchids from Wayne Morris when she rang him up and said "guess who" and he hung up on her. At that she got off easy. I've often been tempted to send flowers to the shrinking "guess who" violets, but my thought was lillies.

o o o

And talking of shrinking violets, Kay Francis is threatening dire things if a friend who purloined a verse she wrote and had published anonymously, reveals her authorship. Is Kay trying to hide the best that is in her or only the verst?

o o o

Franchot Tone once failed in a college screen test. The winners of that same test, on the other hand have not made the grade in movies. And may that be a consolation to the legion of others who fail in school tests. They don't always prove what they set out to demonstrate. Many holders of the Phi Beta Kappa key never seem to find the door.

"Strip Tease" Takes to Hudson River

Driven out of New York City by License Commissioner, Paul Moss, the strip-tease type of burlesque has retreated to a boat on the Hudson River from which out-of-bounds vantage point it will present 35 Eves in the process of shedding their last fig leaves in the cooling river winds.

There may be a worthwhile suggestion in that to the City of Toronto. How about the Lake Ontario breezes for the overly-tepid Casino show?

NEW THEATRE FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO

A new theatre is being proposed in Fraserdale, Ont. which is about 60 miles north of Cochrane. If the plan is successfully promoted, this will be the most northerly theatre in the province.

Winnipeg Film Board Meets

At the annual meeting of the Winnipeg Film Board of Trade the following were elected to office: J. H. Huber (20th-Fox), president; D. Griesdorf (U A), Vice-president; A. Wolfe (RKO), Safety Committee; F. L. Vaughan (Empire-U), Public Relations Committee.

Warner Oland Ill

The mysterious disappearance of Warner Oland from the 20th Century set where "Charlie Chan at the Ringside" was being filmed, was later explained when it was found that the famed actor was dangerously ill.

Following his disappearance, the cast was paid off, and work on the picture suspended.

Oland is now in a hospital awaiting a serious operation.

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Revised Express Rates

The schedule of rates below is compiled to indicate the reduction on shipments from laboratories to exchanges and inter-office shipments. All exhibitors throughout Canada will also benefit on most shipments up to 25 lbs. received by them. On shipments over 25 lbs. they will only benefit if their basic rate is over \$4.00 per 100 lbs. The exhibitors' rates were very considerably reduced in September, 1933.

1. Rates on Shipments over 25 lbs. (Interprovincial)

		PER 100 LBS.		
		Previous to Sept. 2, 35	After Sept. 2, 35	After Dec. 20, 37
Toronto to	Montreal	2.70	2.70	2.70
	St. John	5.40	5.40	4.00
	Winnipeg	8.90	6.30	4.50
	Calgary	11.90	9.20	7.50
	Vancouver	15.95	10.05	8.00
Montreal to	Toronto	2.70	2.70	2.70
	St. John	3.50	3.50	3.50
	Winnipeg	9.70	7.05	5.25
	Calgary	12.30	9.50	8.00
	Vancouver	16.20	10.25	8.00
Winnipeg to	Calgary	6.55	6.05	4.00
	Vancouver	11.90	9.20	7.50
Calgary to Vancouver		6.05	6.05	4.00

2. Rates on 25 lbs. or Less (Interprovincial)

		Max. 1935	Max. Now
Toronto to	Montreal	1.00	1.00
	St. John	1.70	1.30
	Winnipeg	1.89	1.00
	Calgary	2.65	1.75
	Vancouver	2.85	2.00

3. Rates up to 25 lbs. (Within any Province)

Shipments of films and accessories by express up to 25 lbs. pay a maximum of 65 cents to any point within the Province (Ontario or any other Province). The rate varies, affected by numerous tariffs and distances, but the maximum is never exceeded.

William Dieterle, director of "The Life of Emile Zola," who was critically injured in an automobile accident several weeks ago, will soon leave the hospital where he has been confined since the crash.

Joris Ivens who screened the Ernest Hemingway script "Spanish Earth" has gone to China to make a similar documentary war film. The script for this one was written by Lillian Hellman who wrote "Children's Hour" and adapted "Dead End" for the screen.

March Of Time German Film Stirs Crowds

The new March of Time, 2-reeler, "Inside Nazi Germany - 1938" is stirring audiences to intense emotions.

At the first showing in a Broadway newsreel theatre, a special police squad was provided to keep order. Fists were shaken and cheers mingled with hisses as the panorama of a thoroughly regimented, completely suppressed and disciplined Germany unrolled itself before the eyes of the spectators.

A working class, forbidden the right to strike, provided with work at a low subsistence level (\$10 per week) is shown listening to government controlled radio broadcasts and reading government censored newspapers. Children are shown conscripted by the Government to work for definite periods without pay and younger children being drilled in the militaristic routines of the new empire-seeking re-armed Germany.

Groups in Chicago, sympathetic with the new German ambitions, petitioned successfully to have the film banned. The Chicago Board of Censors later reversed its decision.

John Barrymore To Play Louis XV

Hunt Stromberg has selected John Barrymore to play Louis XV. in M G M's production of "Marie Antoinette" opposite Norma Shearer.

Selznick Off M.G.M. Reaches Out For U.A.

Negotiations between Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Selznick International Pictures whereby 18 pictures were to be released by Metro have been unsuccessfully terminated.

The "fundamental differences" cited as the breaking point in the deal were said to be the refusal on the part of M G M to permit the Selznick organization to approve contracts. This would involve delays in effecting sales, said Metro executives, and permit individual selling of Selznick pictures.

With the breaking down of this deal, came news that David Selznick is reaching out to acquire the Fairbanks - Pickford - Chaplin units of United Artists stock, the option of purchase of which Alexander Korda and Samuel Goldwyn recently relinquished.

Selznick International has six A pictures planned for 1938-9 besides "Tom Sawyer" which is already completed, and two others arranged for U.A. release.

Jane-Bloor Theatre At Last — Perhaps

It is rumored in Toronto that the long-planned theatre at Jane and Bloor Streets is to be built at last.

The Hanson Theatres Corp. Ltd. is said to have ordered a set of plans for the site from Mr. Jay I. English, Toronto Theatre Architect.

TORONTO THEATRES FIRST RUN

IMPERIAL — "HOLLYWOOD HOTEL" — WARNER.

SHEA'S — "BREAKFAST FOR TWO" — R K O.
"FIT FOR A KING" — R K O.

LOEWS — "THE HURRICANE" — U A.

UPTOWN — "STAGE DOOR" — R K O.

EGLINTON — "BLOSSOMS ON BROADWAY" —
PARAMOUNT.
"BULLDOG DRUMMOND'S REVENGE" —
PARAMOUNT.

HOLLYWOOD — "NIGHT CLUB SCANDAL" —
PARAMOUNT.

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